Black Canyon Ascent and Addition

This route will take you east of Montrose from downtown. Uses heavily traveled highway that does have adequate shoulders. Is a steep climb once you turn onto highway 347. Total elevation change is 3578 vertical feet. Two lane highway up to the turn off for Black Canyon. Two lane country roads from the turn off up. One way distance is 20 miles (all up hill). Climb will be rewarded with 20 mile descent return trip along the same route. All roads are paved, but will have varied types of paved surfaces in varied conditions. There are cattle guards located near the 3, 4, 5 mile markers on highway 347. Good starting area is downtown where there are several parking options close to the Montrose Visitor's Center. Montrose Visitor’s Center is located at 107 S Cascade Ave for area info.

Optional routes. You can also start at the turn off of highway 50 to highway 347. There is a parking lot with restrooms and store. This will avoid highway 50 which has traffic. On the ascent, you can also ride just to the guard house which cuts off several miles. There are restrooms at the guards house. To enter Black Canyon National Park there is a fee for cyclists. Distance from parking at corner of highways 347 and 50 to the guard station is 5.75 miles one way. It is an additional 7.5 miles from the guard station to the end of the Park’s paved road.